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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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SOVIET ARMY REGIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

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Introduction

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I. REGIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN GARRISON

Source was aware of six more or less separate segments of the communications system within the regiment while it was in garrison, which was nearly all of the time. These six segments were as follows:

1. Regimental Wire Net

The regimental wire net included division headquarters, other regiments of the parent division and regimental sub-units. This net specifically included the two rifle companies on the demarcation line as well as other regimental sections and units which source could not name specifically.2 He did know that about 30 drops were used on the regimental switchboard, which was of an unidentified German civilian type.

2. Regimental-Division Telegraph Link

The regiment was also linked with the division by a separate telegraph line and telegraph unit. Messages over this line were encoded. The transmitting apparatus consisted of an ordinary key and tape unit.

3. Division Command Radio Net

Source knew that his regiment was linked with the division command radio net through an RSBF set and that traffic on this net was by encoded CW. He also knew that the other regiments of the same division were net members but had no further information on it.

4. Division (?) Advance Air Warning Radio Net

Source knew that the regimental VNOS post had an RBM radio set which was tied in with other unidentified member stations in an advance air-warning net. Net traffic was in encoded CW. According to source, the VNOS operators were so experienced that they could recognize the encoded warning messages without taking them to the unit chief of staff, who had the nominal decoding responsibility.

5. Internal Wire Air Warning Net

Source knew that there was an internal secondary wire set connecting the VNOS post, the central telephone station, the regimental chief of staff and the regimental RSBF member station of the Division command (through runners). This system is depicted below graphically, to the best of source's knowledge.

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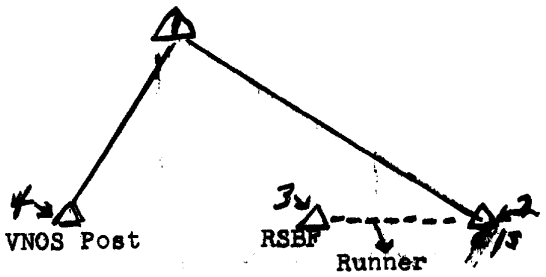

LEGEND:

1. T&TS (Tsentralnaya Telefonaya Stantsiya - Central Telephone Exchange). Located on second floor of Sig Co billets.[2] This was the regimental communications center. In the center was a German switchboard, an RBM-1 radio and a conventional telegraph unit with telegraph key and tape.

2. Regimental Chief of Staff.

3. Truck-mounted RSBF radio. This radio was in constant operation and was tied into the division command net.

4. VNOS Post, located on the top floor of the Sig Co billets. This post had an RBM-1 radio which was tied into an air warning post net. Source did not know any of the other member stations, but he believed that all stations were on the same channel.

   a. Operations

      The regimental VNOS post would send or receive an air-warning message to or from the division by its own organic RBM-1 radio. Member stations could not send an air-warning message to each other; only the division control station could contact them. Upon receipt of a radio message the regimental VNOS post then telephoned the regimental chief of staff, who sent a runner to alert the continuously-manned SPU-4 AA MG position in the caserne.[2] The chief of staff also alerted the regimental bugler at the main gate guard shack, so that the latter would be ready to blow an air alert if needed. If the regimental VNOS post sent an air-warning message by radio to the division control station, it also telephoned the regimental chief of staff.

      The RSBF radio could also receive an air-warning message down from division through the division command net, although this set was normally used to send and receive other types of traffic. If an air-warning message was thus received by this set, a runner delivered the message to the chief of staff, who alerted the VNOS post (if it was not already alerted by then over its own VNOS net) and also the AA MG position. All traffic over the RSBF and RBM-1 VNOS post radios was encoded and by CW. The only exception was congratulatory messages received at the RSBF. The radio operator on the RSBF transliterated from Morse to Cyrillic characters and delivered the message to the chief of staff, who decoded the message himself or had the chief of the secret documents section do it.[3] The chief of staff and the secret documents section chief composed outgoing encoded messages.

   b. Operating Personnel[2]

      Personnel of Sig Co who were operating the above facilities rotated between these duties and training. Sig Co personnel

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not connected with any of these duties were only engaged in training when the unit was in garrison.

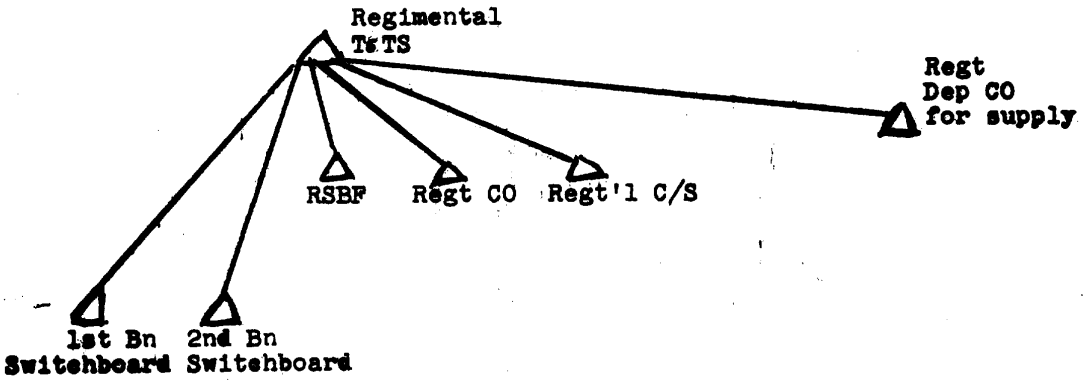
6. Demarcation Units Radio Net

Source believed that the two demarcation line companies and an RBM-1 net-control station at his regiment, which was in what was called the central telephone station, belonged to an encoded CW net. He also believed that these stations were the only members of this net.

B. REGIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES IN THE FIELD

During the brief period when Source's regiment was in the field, it had the following signal communications procedures equipment.

1. Regimental Telephone Communications



When the regiment went to the field, some Sig Co personnel were left in the regimental caserne area to continue operating the German regimental switchboard and the telegraph unit.

In the field, a field regimental telephone center was set up. Only a K-10 switchboard was in this center. Drops to the board were only to the personnel shown in the sketch. Source was sure that no lines were set up for the regimental artillery. He reasoned that these units would be with the 1st or 2d Rifle Bn's and would be tied into their boards, since he knew that they had no lines to the regimental switchboard. The 1st and 2d Rifle Bn's each had a K-10 switchboard.

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Instructions for establishing line communications came from the regimental chief of communications to the Sig Co CO, who in turn notified the telephone platoon leader. The latter figured out how much line was needed and determined the route of the line. The squad leaders were shown the route or made their own reconnaissance. Each squad leader then gathered his squad and the necessary wire and directed the route of the line. The number 1 and 2 men laid out the line, and the number 3 man checked the line by telephone and made the splices as it was being laid out. The number 4 man made the line fast and

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camouflaged it. After the line was tied into the 1st Rifle Bn switchboard, the squad remained at the battalion headquarters, making necessary repairs only to the battalion-regiment length of line, taking it down, or reestablishing it during the course of the exercise.

The signal platoon of each rifle battalion was responsible for setting up line communications from the battalion switchboard to the individual companies or any supporting elements. (Those platoons also provided radios and operators to the battalion sub-units.)

According to source, there was no lateral line communication between the rifle battalions in his unit. Line communications from the division to the regiment was established by the Sig Bn of the division. Source had no further information on telephone communications procedures in the field.

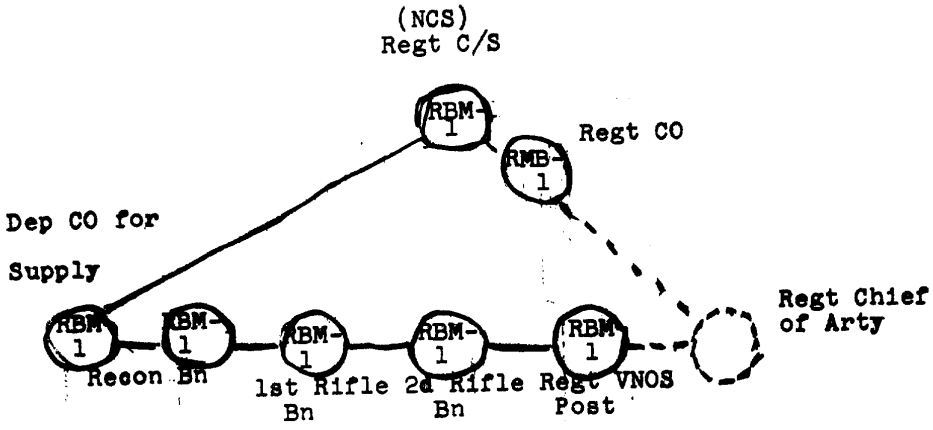
2. Radio Communications Nets

a. Division Command Net

The one RSBF radio of the regiment was mounted in a GAZ-64 truck and was a member station of the division command net. Source could not state which other stations were on this net. He only knew that it maintained contact with division and the "other" regiments of the division. This set was usually close to the chief of staff. If it was placed a short distance from the chief of staff, a telephone line was run to it. Traffic over this set was only by encoded CW.

Source did not know if it was possible for the division CO to make direct radio contact with one of the rifle battalions. He believed that this would be possible only if he had an RBM-1 set with him and was close enough for voice traffic.

b. Regimental Command Net



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Source was not too sure whether the regiment VNOS post was included in this net. The Sig Co provided radios and operators to the chief of staff, the regiment CO and the deputy CO for supply. The two rifle battalions and the reconnaissance company provided their own RBM-1 sets and operators. The regiment VNOS post was attached directly to the chief of staff from the Sig Co and had its own set and operators. Source was quite certain that no other stations were on this net, but he only guessed that the regimental chief of artillery was on it.

The regiment net had an operating and a secondary channel. As far as source knew traffic was by voice. He could give no further information.

c. Battalion Nets

Each rifle battalion had an unknown number of R-106 type radios.[3] Source was quite sure each company in the battalion had such a set, with the net control set at rifle battalion headquarters. Each battalion had its own net. Radio sets and operators were provided by the signal platoons of each regiment. Traffic was in the clear, by voice.

d. Other Possible Nets in the Regiment

Source could not satisfactorily explain the existence of other nets in the regiment, such as those that might be used by the regimental artillery.

(1) SP Battery

Source knew that his Sig Co kept four R-106 sets in its supply room. These four sets plus operators were attached to the regimental SP-76 battery during field exercises. No radios were mounted in the SP guns. Source reasoned that since the SP'S were deployed with the forward units, it was possible that they got on the rifle battalion nets (which also had R-106 sets) or even had their own net.

(2) Regimental Chief of Artillery

Source knew that the regimental chief of artillery had a RBM-1 and either a R-105 or R-106 set[4] mounted in his jeep. Source thought that perhaps this individual was in the regimental net with his RBM-1, but he did not know. Source did not know in what net the chief of artillery's other radio was included.

(3) 120-mm Mortar Btry

Source could not satisfactorily explain the means of communication used by the regimental 120-mm Mortar Btry. He believed that this battery had its own internal communications set up, but he did not know of any radios in that battery. He was quite sure that mortar firing was controlled by field phone only.

(4) 107-mm Rocket Launcher Btry

This unit had no communication equipment or set-up.

(5) 85-mm AT Btry

This battery had one R-105 radio. Source had no further information on this subject.

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MISCELLANEOUS SIGNAL INFORMATION

The regimental chief of communications was responsible for the set-up and operation of the regimental signal facilities. However, source was quite sure that the regimental chief of artillery supervised internal regimental artillery communications, not the chief of communications.

Source had no information on SOP's for radio operators. He knew that radio operators received certain written instructions during field problems as to channels, call signs, etc. however, 50X1
he never received written instructions, being merely instructed by his squad leader 50X1 The squad leader was responsible for locating the switchboard and selecting the route.

Certain telephone call signs were used for telephone designations. 50X1
These were assigned by the regimental chief of communications. they changed every month. Most commonly used 50X1
ones were:

Regimental CO	-	015,034
Regimental Headquarters	-	085,058,095
Chief of Staff (Regt'l)	-	016,018
The Regimental TsTS	-	Susha, Logovishchs, Volga, Nstriy, Natri, Vertun, Grozniy

Source had no knowledge on radio call signs.

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50X1 2. Comment: for source's order of battle information on this unit.

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50X1 3. Comment: for source's regimental T/O & E information, particularly his own Sig Co and its equipment.

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3. Comment: Source stated that the time-lag involved in this Morse-to-Cyrillic-to-decoded-message process was so great that often the plane causing the warning had passed the unit before the message was decoded at regiment.

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50X1 4. Comment: See for source's information on the two allegedly relatively new Soviet Army radios, the R-105 and R-106.